

importance of West Virginia coal to the Nation. For nearly a century, West Virginia coal helped fuel America's industries, heat our homes and power our battleships. But West Virginia's natural resources have also included America's first natural gas well, in 1815, near Charleston, and the world's largest gas well, "Big Moses" in Tyler County, which was drilled in 1894 and produced 100,000,000 cubic feet of gas per day. In 1941, the first and largest synthetic rubber plant in the United States began operation near Charleston.

There is so much to see and do in West Virginia. Come on down. Come on down to West Virginia. There is nature. There is beauty. There is history. And the State's modern highway system. I can remember when, while serving in the West Virginia Legislature in 1947, seeing that State as a State without a single mile of divided 4-lane highway on the 1947 highway map. Think of that. A 1947 highway map shows not a single mile, not one in the whole State, of divided 4-lane highway. Oh, but what a change.

With the State's modern highway system, you can drive to Weirton, WV, and see the only city in the United States that stretches from a State's eastern border all the way to its western border.

At Grafton, WV, you can visit Andrews Church, which, on May 10, 1908, was the site of the first celebration of Mother's Day. Just a few hours away, near Thomas, WV, is a unique, picturesque little church, Our Lady of the Pines, once considered the smallest church in the United States.

You can travel to Charles Town, WV, and see where rural free mail delivery began in 1896 and see the Court House in which more than 500 coal miners went on trial for treason and insurrection in 1922.

Speaking of labor history, drive over to Martinsburg and see where the great railroad strike of 1877 began, or down to Logan County, WV, and view the site of the largest labor uprising in American history, the Battle of Blair Mountain.

West Virginia also has a fascinating business history. The first trust in the United States was the salt trust organized in 1817 by the salt manufacturers along the Kanawha River.

The first patent for a soda fountain—if you have ever taken your girl to the soda fountain? What a great memory that is. I used to walk 3 miles to take my girlfriend at that time—she's my wife now, after 66 years—I took her to the soda fountain. And I would buy a quart of ice cream. It just cost 5 cents in those days.

The first patent for a soda fountain was granted to George Dulty, of Wheeling, WV, in 1833 and outdoor advertising had its origins in that same city in 1908. The first municipally owned parking building in the United States opened in Welch—that is in Dowell County. The very Southern point of West Virginia—in 1941.

Sports history, West Virginia has that too. Colliers, WV, on June 1, 1880, was the site of the first bareknuckles heavyweight championship fight. At Burnsville, in 1960, Danny Heater scored 135 points in a single basketball game, for which he is in the Guinness Book of World Records. Can you believe that, 135 points in a basketball game?

Finally, let me invite you to drive over to Ritchie County, WV, and see where history was made when a Mountain was made from a Mole Hill—literally. It actually happened. It happened when the good people of the town of Mole Hill, WV, decided to change the name of their town to Mountain. They changed it from a "molehill" into a "mountain."

On this the 140th anniversary of West Virginia, we will welcome you.

On this, the 140th anniversary of West Virginia, I say happy birthday, West Virginia. Come on down to West Virginia. Congratulations, West Virginia.

"Born amidst tears and blood and fire and desolation," in the words of Reverend Mr. McLure, from a "little beginning" you have grown "to be a might and a power" that has made us look upon you "with joy and gladness and pride of heart."

This was no land for lily-fingered men
Who bowed and scraped and danced a neat quadrille,

In towns and cities far beyond the ken
Of mountaineers—who loved each rock and rill.

It was a place for lean, tall men with love
For freedom flowing strongly in their veins,
For those attuned to vagrant stars above,
To rugged peaks, deep snows and June-time rains.

And so our State was whelped in time of strife

And cut its teeth upon a cannon ball;
Its heritage was cleaner, better life,
Within the richest storehouse of them all.

With timber, oil and gas and salt and coal,
It bargained in the world's huge marketplace.

The mountain empire reached a mighty goal;
It never ran a pauper's sordid race.

And best of all, it sired a hardy flock
Whose fame will grow with centuries to be,
Tough as a white-oak stump or limestock rock,

The mountaineers—who always shall be free.

CLEARING AWAY THE MUD AND MUCK

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, Mother Nature has once again, as I have seen so many times, dealt West Virginia a heavy blow. For more than a week, heavy rains have spawned flash floods and mudslides. The storms have resulted in millions of dollars in damages to homes and businesses in Central and Southern West Virginia, damage so significant that yesterday Governor Bob Wise requested a Federal disaster declaration for then counties.

His request seeks Federal aid for Boone, Cabell, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, McDowell, Mingo, Putnam, and Wayne counties.

The need for help is abundantly clear. Hundreds and hundreds of homes have been washed away or significantly damaged because of the storms. Mudslides continue to threaten communities nestled along West Virginia's many mountains, mudslides that could be triggered with just a little more rain or a little more wind. Thousands of West Virginians have been without power, without telephone service, and without utility service. Bridges and roads have literally been wiped off the map, isolating communities that already are working to pick themselves up from this devastation.

Make no mistake, West Virginians are committed to rebuilding.

So many times I have seen them after a flood, if the homes were still standing, go right back into those homes, or, if the homes were gone, building another home and going right back into those homes.

So they are committed to rebuilding their lives. But they need help to get back on their feet.

As I have just indicated, today is West Virginia Day—a day normally set aside to celebrate the anniversary of the Mountain State becoming a full-fledged partner in this union of States. There will not be much celebrating today in these storm-ravaged counties. But we do celebrate the West Virginia spirit that has shined throughout the years, and in that same spirit that has shined throughout this disaster. It is a spirit that can never be washed away, no matter how heavy the rains come, and no matter how deep the floods.

Thousands of Mountain State residents have taken part in the recover effort. I applaud them. Like so many before them among those West Virginia hills, they have filled sandbags and carried pets to safety. They have pulled people from homes just before the on-rushing waters came rolling in. It is no surprise. Helping neighbors in need is the West Virginia way.

It is with regret that I inform the Senate that that West Virginia spirit may have cost one man his life. In Lincoln County, in the town of Spurlockville, 37-year-old Joey Roberts was trying to give a hand to a friend whose car had stalled in waist-high water. The friend was trying to cross the Mud River in an area that normally is shallow enough for passage. But not on this day. The waters were

just too much. When trying to help, Mr. Roberts slipped and fell. His body was recovered some time later. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, and with all of the families who are struggling to regain some sense of safety and normalcy amid these storms.

I hope that the request for Federal disaster assistance is approved quickly. Every moment counts in the recovery efforts, and every little bit of help is crucial.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 2 P.M.,
MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2003

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:56 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 23, 2003, at 2 p.m.